

## **Highlights from Steering Committee conference call January 7, 2005**

### Pilot Projects

- The group agreed to fund both the Taunton Bay and Muscongus Bay proposals.
- Discussions centered around giving advice/guidance to pilot projects to help make sure they focus their energy on efforts that will provide us with needed information, and allowing the pilot projects to do their own thing so we can learn what a local initiative prefers to focus on. Some balance between these two will probably need to be found.
- If we are to give guidance to the pilot projects, first we need to gain more clarification on the bay management study itself.
- We should identify specific information that we are looking for in this study, and create a pot of grant money that can be given to groups that could do discrete projects/research to help us gather that information. Once we identify our needs, we should see if the Bagaduce proposal contained any specific fundable activities that would answer one of our questions.

### Working Definition

- Clarify if the goal of bay management is to reduce user conflicts and/or to better manage natural resources and habitats. Some of the points brought up in conversation were: 1) there are already laws and agencies set up to manage natural resources; 2) the genesis of the bay management study was user conflicts; 3) conflict resolution and resource management are tied together and both need to be addressed; 4) assume that resources will be managed sustainably, and focus bay management on how uses impact each other or where gaps/overlaps occur; 5) sometimes resource management is flawed and bay management could help address those problems.
- Clarify the geography and scale. Are we talking about the surface water only? The entire water column? The sea floor? The air above the water? What size bay? Acknowledge that bay management might work at different size bays.
- Clarify the degree to which we are looking for common ecological principals that would apply to the management of any bay in Maine, and for unique characteristics of a given bay that would impact how that specific bay is managed.
- This brought up the discussion about whether or not we are creating a state wide system/model of bay management or encouraging the development of local bay management initiatives. While we can create a model of state-wide management (i.e. researching governance changes), we can also encourage locals to become engaged and model for us a local approach. The degree to which we should do each of these requires further discussion.
- Missing from definition: a list of concrete things that bay management might look like. Describe the spectrum (i.e. monitoring, proactive planning exercise, regulatory changes)

- Add to definition on back: specific questions that are unresolved.
- We should keep a list of the ongoing questions that we've mentioned in this conversation – things that we need to answer during this study.
- There was some discussion regarding the role of this working definition in providing guidance to pilot projects. While some believed that this is necessary, others felt that a definition is where we think we're heading at the end of 2 years and not what we want a pilot to do. The definition can provide boundaries to work within, but the pilot projects should be allowed to work in a way that helps us refine the definition .
- We need to be able to get this working definition out to people. There were two types of comments made today: edits/additions, and major changes (i.e. resource management vs. conflict resolution). The SC agreed that we will make the edits and additions and get it to them by Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> for their review. Their feedback will be incorporated before the first public meeting Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. We will hold off on the major changes and talk about them more at the next SC meeting.

#### Decision Making within the Study

- There was general agreement with what was presented.
- What is the role of legislators? We should enlist them as well.

#### Community Meetings

- Governance discussion group: it isn't clear from the handout what the goal of this session is; add some questions to guide/focus the discussion; make sure discussion is focused on the substance of the problem; document what is and isn't working.
- Map room/issue identification: be clear about what we are looking for in this session and ask questions to focus on that; ask a question that helps us learn if people agree on how to subdivide the coast into 'bays'; have a question to find out what already exists for managing conflicts.
- Include something at the end that lets participants see what was produced during the course of the meeting.